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REMARKS

With entry of the instant amendment claims 30 – 40, 42 and 51 – 69 are pending. Claims 1 – 29, 41 and claims 43 – 50 have been cancelled without prejudice and Applicants reserve the right to file further continuation applications on the subject matter of any cancelled claim. Claim 30 has been amended to recite that the intermediate comprises glucose and dependent claims 61 – 69 are new. Applicants contend that the new claims do not introduce new matter and are supported by the specification. Claim 61 is directed to the elected end-product 1,3-propanediol; claims 62 – 63 include further enzymes (alpha amylases and glucoamylases) in addition to the cellulase; claim 64 – 65 are directed to substrates which include plant residues from enumerated plants; claims 66 includes the further step of recovering the end-product; claims 67 – 68 further define the microorganism and claims 69 is directed to the contacting time.

Applicants have been required to make an election of species as outlined in the Office Action dated June 26, 2006.

The Examiner has required an election of species for:

- A) Intermediates: (a) xylose, (b) arabinose, (c) lyxose, (d) ribose, (f) xylulose, (g) glucose, (h) allose, (i) altrose, (j) mannose, (k) gulose, (l) idose, (m) galactose, (n) talose, (o) psicose, (p) fructose (q) sorbose and (r) tagatose
- B) Substrate-converting enzymes: (s) alpha amylase, (t) glucomaylase, (u) pullulanase and (v) cellulase
- C) End products: (y) 1, 3-propanediol, (z) glycerol, (a') succinic acid; (b') lactic acid, (c') . 2,5DKG (d') gluconate, (e') glucose, (f') alcohol, and (g') AsA intermediates.

Applicants have elected only for the purpose of examination only the following single disclosed species; for the intermediate – glucose; for the substrate converting enzyme – cellulase and for the end product 1,3-propanediol.

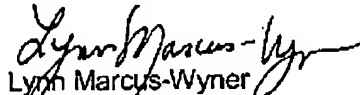
In a telephonic conversation with Examiner Barnhart on July 19, 2006, the undersigned attorney indicated that gluconate would be elected as the end-product. However, after further discussion with one of the inventors, it has been decide to elect 1, 3-propanediol as the end-product.

The following claims read on the elected species: claim 30, which is presently the sole independent pending claim and is generic to a number of substrate-converting enzymes species and end-products; claims 35 – 40; claim 42, which is generic to a number of end-products; claims 51 – 55; and claims 58 - 69.

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Applicants believe the pending claims are in condition for allowance and an early allowance is kindly requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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